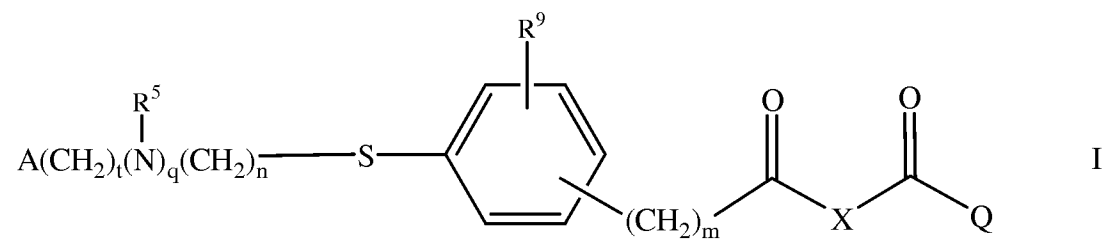## Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 3, 10-22, and amend claims 1, 2, and 4, as shown in the listing of claims that follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended)   A biologically active agent, wherein the agent is a compound of the formula:

$$A(CH_2)_t(N)_q(CH_2)_n \!-\!\! S \!-\!\! \underset{(CH_2)_m}{\overset{R^9}{\bigcirc}} \!-\! (CH_2)_m \!-\! \underset{O}{\overset{O}{\|}}C \!-\! X \!-\! \underset{O}{\overset{O}{\|}}C \!-\! Q \qquad I$$

with R^5 on the nitrogen

wherein

n   is 1 or 2;

m   is 0 or 1;

q   is 0 or 1;

t   is 0 or 1;

R^5 is alkyl having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms;

R^9 is hydrogen, halo, alkyl having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, or alkoxy having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms;

A   is ~~phenyl, unsubstituted or substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from: halo, alkyl having 1 or 2 carbon atoms, perfluoromethyl, alkoxy having 1 or 2 carbon atoms, and perfluoromethoxy~~2,6-dimethylphenyl; or

cycloalkyl having from 3 to 6 ring carbon atoms wherein the cycloalkyl is unsubstituted or one or two ring carbons are independently mono-substituted by methyl or ethyl; and

X   is $-CH_2-$, Q is $-OR^1$ and R^1 is methyl or ethyl; or X is $-CH_2CR^{12}R^{13}-$ or $-CH_2CH(NHAc)-$ wherein each of R^{12} and R^{13} is independently hydrogen or methyl, Q is OR^1 and R^1 is hydrogen or alkyl having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms; or X is $-CH_2CH_2-$ and Q is $NR^{10}R^{11}$ wherein one of R^{10} and R^{11} is hydrogen, alkyl having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms or hydroxy, and the other is hydrogen;

or when R^1 is hydrogen, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

2. (Currently amended)   The biologically active agent of claim 1, wherein n is 1; q is 0; t is 0; R^9 is hydrogen; and

A is ~~phenyl, unsubstituted or substituted by 1 or 2 groups selected from: halo, alkyl having 1 or 2 carbon atoms, perfluoromethyl, alkoxy having 1 or 2 carbon atoms, and perfluoromethoxy~~2,6-dimethylphenyl.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended)   The biologically active agent of claim ~~3~~2, 4-(4-[(2,6-Dimethylbenzyl)-thio]-phenyl)-4-oxobutyric acid.

Claims 5-23 (Canceled).